

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING at page 2, between lines 7 and 9 as follows.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

B¹ Figure 1 is a schematic representation of a longitudinal section of a double shaft extruder of an apparatus according to the present invention;

Figure 1a is a cross sectional representation of double lead feed elements 18 along line A-A' in Figure 1;

Figure 1b is a longitudinal representation of double lead feed elements 18 along line B-B' in Figure 1;

Figure 1c is a cross sectional representation of double lead feed elements 19 along line C-C' in Figure 1;

Figure 1d is a longitudinal representation of double lead feed elements 19 along line D-D' in Figure 1;

Figure 1e is a cross sectional representation of double lead kneading elements 20 along line E-E' in Figure 1;

Figure 1f is a longitudinal representation of double lead kneading elements 20 along line F-F' in Figure 1;

Figure 1g is a cross sectional representation of triple lead feed elements 21 along line G-G' in Figure 1; and

Figure 1h is a longitudinal representation of triple lead feed elements 21 along line H-H' in Figure 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 4-7 of the specification as follows.

B² Said object is achieved according to the invention in that the shafts (30 and 33) of the extruder are designed with a double lead (19) in the degassing zone and with a triple lead (21) in the pressure build-up zone of the extruder and the extruder has an L:D ratio smaller than/equal to 40, wherein L is the respective screw length and D the respective screw diameter.

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 26-29 of the specification as follows.

B³ According to another preferred refinement, kneading elements (20) are disposed immediately downstream of the intake opening of the extruder between the feed elements (19 and 21) of the shafts. The kneading elements are used to introduce energy and in particular to increase the degassing surface.

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 26-33 of the specification as follows.

B⁴ Adjoining the first housing part 1 in feed direction is a second housing part 4 of approximately the same length, which has a further vent opening 5. This is followed by a third, longer housing part 6, which is adjoined by a fourth, relatively short housing part 7 followed by a fifth housing part 8, the length of which corresponds to the length of the third housing part 6. The third and fifth housing part 6, 8 have vent openings 9, 10 of equal size, which are more than twice as long as the vent opening 5 of the second housing part 4. The vent openings 5, 9 and 10 are connected to an exhausting device ~~(not shown)~~ 36 by means of conduits 39, 42 and 45.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 1-5 of the specification as follows.

B⁵ The fifth housing part 8 is followed by three housing parts 12, 13, 14 of approximately equal size, which form a pressure build-up zone, at the end of which the degassed product leaves the extruder. It is evident that a connection opening 15 is formed in the sixth housing part 12. Said connection opening may be used to connect a lateral extruder (e.g., an additive admixing charging device 22), by means of which additives may be added to the degassed product.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 9-12 of the specification as follows.

B⁶ Kneading elements (20) are disposed immediately downstream of the intake opening 2 between the feed elements of the shafts. In the region of the housing

B⁶ parts 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8 the shafts are designed with a double lead (e.g., 18 and 19). The double-lead (e.g., 18 and 19) and triple-lead (e.g., 21) shaft profiles in said case have differing angles of lead and/or directions of lead.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 24-26 of the specification as follows.

B⁷ To avoid temperature-related quality losses, the extruder is provided with a cooling device (~~not shown~~) 48, which includes inlet conduits 16 and outlet conduits 17 relative to the extruder. The cooling device is formed preferably in the region of the housing parts 12, 13, 14.
